

Protect Consumers and Stop Fossil Fuel Industry Profiteering

August 3, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
US House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Thune:

As organizations representing consumers and communities across the country, we write to urge you to stop moving forward policies in Congress that cater to the profiteering of powerful fossil fuel corporations and start prioritizing affordability for working families struggling with escalating energy bills and rising gasoline prices.

Families across the country are struggling with [higher gasoline prices](#) at a time when [oil and gas corporations reap massive profits](#) that reward industry executives and shareholders with stock buybacks and massive payouts. The average price of gasoline has risen dramatically in the United States since the start of 2026, driving up costs for consumers and profits for the oil and gas industry. Not only are these costs a direct burden on the American consumer, it also imposes indirect costs on groceries, household goods, and other essentials transported across the country. We are seeing similar [increases in energy prices for electricity and heating costs](#), driven by rising commodity prices for natural gas and new fossil fuel infrastructure costs. While this is a serious strain on families, it is also a huge windfall for oil and gas companies, who continue to report tens of billions of dollars in profits while expanding exports to maximize returns for shareholders.

For years, fossil fuel companies and their allies in Congress have chanted “Drill Baby Drill” claiming that more drilling, pipelines, and fossil fuel infrastructure will lower prices for consumers. Instead this blind drive for expanding fossil fuel development has left Americans trapped in a system where gasoline and energy prices are tied to volatile global oil markets and corporate profiteering. Expanding domestic drilling will never fully protect consumers from global price hikes when oil and gasoline are sold on international markets designed to maximize profits, not affordability.

The fossil fuel industry takes in at least [\\$34.8 billion per year](#) in direct taxpayer money, even as these same corporations continue gouging consumers. American consumers should not be forced to bankroll the same industry that is profiting from economic pain, yet instead of protecting consumers from profiteering by decoupling American consumers from fossil fuels, you are leading Congress in efforts to lock in even more fossil fuels through [massive subsidies and giveaways for fossil fuel corporations](#). The policies you champion in Congress are not only doubling down on fossil fuel subsidies, they are [locking Americans out of more affordable renewable energy](#). By gutting support for more affordable renewable energy projects, and standing idly by while the [Trump administration arbitrarily blocks clean energy projects](#) across the country, you are pushing even more consumer

dollars to the pockets of fossil fuel executives. These policies waste public money while locking American consumers into more dependence on fossil fuels, guaranteeing higher prices for the public and more profits for Big Oil.

Decisions by the Trump administration to facilitate exports of gasoline, LNG, and oil — while throttling wind and solar projects — are making the problem worse for US consumers who are facing rising costs for energy, transportation, and groceries. In May US oil and refined product exports hit [14.2 million barrels a day](#), an all-time high. Yet time and time again, you fail to stand up to President Trump who is keeping his promise to enrich the fossil fuel executives who bankrolled his campaign.

There are concrete ways to fight back against the fossil fuel industry and their insatiable profiteering. You can use your political power to advance policies that will rein in fossil fuel exports, penalize companies for profiteering, and reigning in export driven price hikes. As a first step, we urge you to use your power as leaders in Congress to advance these policies to rein in fossil fuel industry profits and protect consumers from the current energy affordability crisis:

[The Gasoline Export Ban Act:](#) Prohibits gasoline exports when the national average price exceeds \$3.12 per gallon for a week, aiming to lower fuel costs for American consumers.

[The Big Oil Windfall Profits Act:](#) Imposes an excise tax on the profits of certain crude oil producers and importers in the United States.

[End Polluter Welfare Act:](#) Eliminates more than \$190 billion in tax loopholes and federal subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.

[Lowering American Energy Costs Act:](#) Prohibits export of natural gas due to their contribution to rising household energy costs.

It is time for Congress to prioritize affordability over the profits of the fossil fuel industry. Taken together, these bills will help protect consumers from fossil fuel industry profiteering, price gouging, and unpredictable global energy markets.

Sincerely,

Food & Water Watch

AFGE Local 704

Alaska Wilderness League

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Better Path Coalition

Bold Alliance

California National Organization for Women
(CA NOW)

California Nurses for Environmental Health
and Justice

Center for Oil & Gas Organizing

Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War

CERBAT

Change Begins With ME Indivisible	Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Cherokee Concerned Citizens	Make Polluters Pay
Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) Action Fund	MoveOn.org/HobokenRESIST!
Citizen Action of New York	NEPA Green Coalition
Clean4ChangeKY	North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
Climate Justice Alliance	Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Climate Psychiatry Alliance	Occupy Bergen County
Climate Reality Project of the Lehigh Valley PA	Oil and Gas Action Network
CLUE-SB Environmental Justice Work Group	Oil Change International
Concerned Health Care Professionals of Pennsylvania	P.E.E.R. Group
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania	Peace, Justice, Sustainability, NOW I
Earth Ethics, Inc	Pelea Movement
Earth Guardians	Physicians For Social Responsibility Of Pennsylvania
Eco-Justice Collaborative	Physicians for Social Responsibility/Florida
Endangered Species Coalition	Plastic Pollution Coalition
Environmental Justice Advocates, First Unitarian Church of Oakland	Progressives for Climate
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice	Protect PT
FracTracker Alliance	Putnam Progressives
Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa	San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
FreshWater Accountability Project	SanDiego350
Friends of the Earth US	Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
GreenFaith	Seneca Lake Guardian
GreenLatinos	Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, N.Y.
Healthy Ocean Coalition	Snake River Alliance
Indivisible East Bay	Sunflower Alliance
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program	Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
	Waterspirit

West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe
Jobs

198 methods

350 Bay Area Action

350 Mass

350 Sacramento

350Brooklyn

350Hawaii